



# THE MESSENGER

## ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

AUGUST 2023

### WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday Worship - 10:30 AM

Sunday School - 9:30 AM (adult & child)

Drum Class - Mondays 5-8 PM Apr-July

NA Meeting - Wednesdays at 7:30 PM

Spirituality Group - Thursdays at 7:00 PM

AA Meeting - Saturdays at 10:00 AM

- Mondays at 7:00 PM

Soccer Shots - Saturday mornings &

Tuesday evenings (Spring-Fall)



### 2023 COUNCIL EXECUTIVES

President – Jeff Williams

Vice President – Chelsea Karaffa

Secretary – Thom Kruise

Treasurer – Bob Thompson

### 2023 COUNCIL LIAISONS

Christian Education

Pastor Joe Murdy

Communications & Publications

Jason Eager

Fellowship

Sharon Giza

Finance & Stewardship

John Bielewicz

Mutual Ministry

Jeff Williams

Personnel

Clay Marnich

Property

Phil Spano

Social Ministry & Evangelism

Sharon Giza

Worship & Music

Thom Kruise

Youth

Chelsea Karaffa, Venus Thompson

### Next Council Meeting

Tuesday August 8 at 7:00 PM

## Chaplain's [Final] Summer Log !



Pastor Joe at U.S. Armed Forces Chaplaincy Center in Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

*from Pastor Murdy's Bunk*

*My dear friends in Christ,*

It certainly has been a challenging, long and fulfilling summer. As I write this, I will still have a little less than three weeks left here at the U.S. Armed Forces Chaplaincy Center in Fort Jackson, South Carolina. We are counting down the days!

Just about every day we work out from 5:30-7am and are seated for class at 8:20. Class is usually let out by 5pm. Sometimes a little earlier, thank goodness!

We are learning about so many things; I wouldn't know where to begin explaining. Most recently, we learned how to conduct military ceremonies, funerals and memorial services. There is something new to learn every day! (Although, it's like drinking from a fire hose!)

In less than two weeks we will have our biggest test yet. Four days in the field putting everything into practice. The final capstone. From briefing and supporting the commander to conducting medic support to wounded soldiers. From preaching in a field service to navigating through the woods. No showers. Porta-johns. Oh, and did I mention we hike there with 40-50 lbs. on our backs four miles in and six miles back? All for the love of Jesus and God's people. As chaplains, our boots need to be just as dirty as the soldiers we minister to.

Please keep all 84 of us in your prayers. This will be THE test.

It has been a tremendous challenge with incredible reward. I have been so very thankful for the love and support of family, friends and my church. I just received a wonderful card signed by many of you. It was just what my heart needed.

*continued on page 2*

# Mount Calvary Cemetery

1715 Middletown Road  
McKees Rocks, PA 15136

Robert J. Dudek, Supervisor  
mtcalvarycem@alcpgh.com



## Mount Calvary Cemetery Board

Judy Henry  
Bob Hughes  
Bette Ann Kallay  
Joyce Leister  
Pastor Joe Murdy  
Jeff Williams



## ALC Council Meeting Highlights

Council did not meet in July.

Next meeting is Tuesday August 8 at 7 pm.

From Pastor Murdy's Bunk (continued from pg 1)

If I pass the capstone, then I will graduate on August 18<sup>th</sup>. The very next day, Amanda, the kids and I will enjoy a few days at the beach to relax and regroup! We can't wait!

I look forward to being back with you all on Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Until then, you remain in my prayers.

Yours in Christ +

PJ

“ I have been so very  
**THANKFUL**  
for the **LOVE** and  
**SUPPORT** of  
**FAMILY, FRIENDS**  
and my  
**CHURCH.**”  
~ PJ



# **Ascension's Summer 2023 Outdoor Worship Schedule: August 13<sup>th</sup> August 27<sup>th</sup>**

You are welcome to bring a lawn chair or blanket. Otherwise, benches will be available as pews! Dress accordingly. If it rains, we will be indoors.



K&L GATES



**FamilyPromise**  
of Southwestern Pennsylvania



# FAMILY FUN FEST



**FUN FOR THE ENTIRE  
FAMILY WHILE  
SUPPORTING A GOOD  
CAUSE!**



**FRIDAY,  
AUGUST 11,  
2023**

**6PM - 9PM**

Admission  
**\$15 - Adults**  
**\$8 - child**  
**\$50 - Family**

**Activities**

- ✓ Unlimited Miniature Golf
- ✓ Campfire
- ✓ S'mores
- ✓ Indoor playground
- ✓ Face Painting

**Discovery Church**  
170 Scharberry Lane  
Mars, PA 16046  
**All proceeds support Family  
Promise of Southwestern PA**  
[www.familypromiseswpa.org](http://www.familypromiseswpa.org)

**More Information** 412-921-2916 [info@familypromiseswpa.org](mailto:info@familypromiseswpa.org)



## **WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE - AUGUST 2023**

Date	Assisting Minister	Communion Assistant	Lector	Usher	Acolyte	Sunday	Color	Supply	Space
August 6 <sup>th</sup>	Jerry Wesel	Al Morrow	Jason Eager	Vol.	Vol.	10 <sup>th</sup> Pent.	G	Pr. Paul P	Indoors
August 13 <sup>th</sup>	Jeff Williams	Venus/Lucci	Venus/Lucci	Vol.	Vol.	11 <sup>th</sup> Pent.	G	Kathleen Howells	Outside Comm. res.
August 20 <sup>th</sup>	Jennifer Burkholder	NA (Service of the Word)	Dan Giza	Vol.	Vol.	12 <sup>th</sup> Pent.	G	Kathleen Howells	Indoors
August 27 <sup>th</sup>	Mary Thompson	Amy Kruse	Jerry Wessel	Vol.	Vol.	13 <sup>th</sup> Pent.	G	Pr. Paul P	Outside



## Best Wishes . . .

### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS!

Date | Member/Friend

- 1 Katy Thompson
- 4 Nancy Jacobs
- 6 Nolan Cropper  
Mary Jane McGinnis
- 7 Emily Paladino
- 9 Bonita Stephenson
- 10 London Rickerd
- 12 Raleigh Rickerd
- 14 Abigail Lescalette
- 15 Finn Randal
- 17 Matt Bryan
- 24 Jessica Rodriguez
- 25 Tom Lightner
- 28 Rose Marie LaQuinta



### AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES!

Date | Members/Friends

- 2 Bob & Judy Bryan  
Bill & Suzie McEwen
- 3 John & Brittany Bielewicz
- 17 Phil & Dolly Spano
- 25 Drew & Joyce Leister  
Thad & Avis Ritter
- 26 Tom & Darlene Ganley



## . . . and Blessings to ALL!

## GO NEWS?

If you have pictures, articles, or ideas to submit for the **SEPTEMBER 2023** Newsletter, please contact the office or Pastor, or email [office@alcpgh.com](mailto:office@alcpgh.com).



**JOIN US  
THURSDAY  
AUGUST 17  
At SAL's**

*Last month, the Lunch Bunch enjoyed a fine gathering at Sunny Jim's on Camp Horne Road for their July get-together. Next on the agenda for their August adventure, the Bunch will travel to Chippewa on Thursday Aug. 17 for a delicious visit to SAL's RISTORANTE, a popular venue in the western Beaver County area, located at 2764 Darlington Road (it's a Beaver Falls postal address, but the restaurant is actually in Chippewa, parallel to Route 51). As usual, plan to arrive at Sal's at 11:30 a.m. Those wishing to carpool should coordinate to meet at church for a 10:45 departure. Please let Nancy Schreiber (412-859-3969) or Jerry Wessel (412-787-1213) know by Tuesday August 15 if you plan to attend so that sufficient seating can be reserved. Hope to see you there!*



*~ Jerry Wessel*





THANK YOU to all who  
helped with and attended the  
Taytum Grace  
CAR CRUISE



**UPDATE!**

your support of  
to help with medical costs of  
the heart transplant which she is awaiting!

## A NEW HEART-FULL OF THANKS . . .

**Friday July 14.** Taytum Grace underwent her long-awaited heart transplant! She did very well, and started the immune suppressant medication regimen which is administered to transplant patients. If all continues to go well and there are no signs of rejection, she could be home in approximately 6 weeks!

**On Tuesday July 18,** Taytum was off of sedation and pain medications - only taking Tylenol and of course the anti-rejection meds. She is breathing on her own - no longer on the oxygen and should be moving out of ICU and back to her room in the cardiac unit. *Thanks be to God!*

### Wednesday July 26.

Taytum had her first trip outside to the Healing Garden.

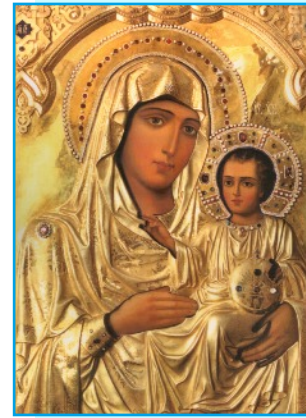
She is full of smiles.

She finished her initial anti-rejection medication and is now on her maintenance anti-rejection medication. And if all continues to go well, she will be home within 4-8 weeks.

Thank you EVERYONE for your continued support, love and prayers for Taytum Grace!



*Taytum Grace was born October 4, 2022. At 9 days old she developed a respiratory virus that damaged her heart, causing it to function at less than 60%. She was placed on the heart transplant list in November 2022 and has been in the hospital ever since she contracted the virus. Taytum is the granddaughter of Ascension member Deb Walenchok's supervisor.*



## Mary Mother of Jesus

Mary was a first-century BC Galilean Jewish woman of Nazareth, and the mother of Jesus, according to the New Testament.

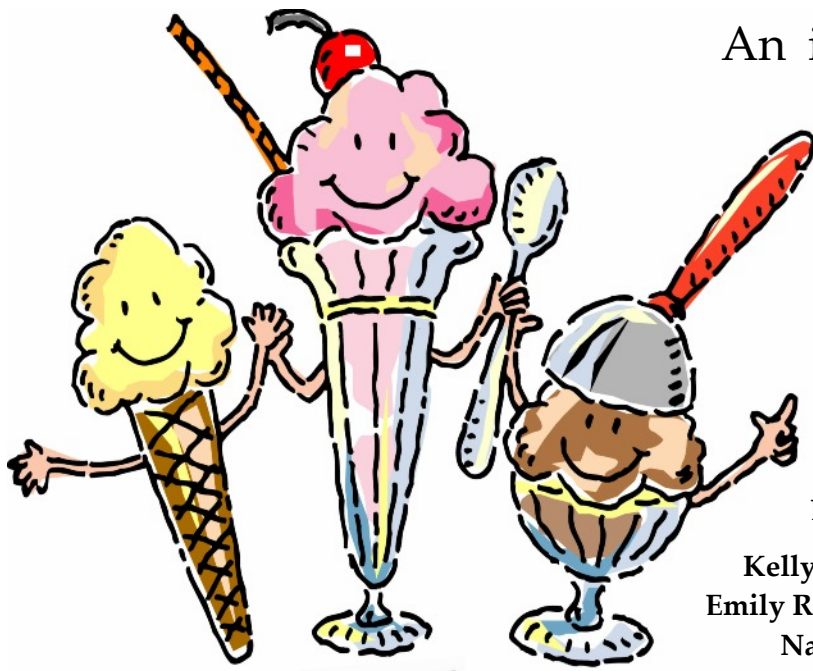
The gospels of Matthew and Luke in the New Testament describe Mary as a virgin; according to Christian theology she conceived Jesus through the Holy Spirit while still a virgin. The miraculous conception took place when she was already betrothed to Joseph. She accompanied Joseph to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born.

The Gospel of Luke begins its account of Mary's life with the Annunciation, when the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and announced her divine selection to be the mother of Jesus. According to canonical gospel accounts, Mary was present at the crucifixion and is depicted as a member of the early Christian community in Jerusalem. According to Catholic and Orthodox teachings, at the end of her earthly life her body was raised directly into Heaven; this is known in the Christian West as the Assumption, [and in the Christian East as the *Dormition* - falling-asleep].

Mary has been venerated since early Christianity, and is considered by millions to be the most meritorious saint of the religion. She is said to have miraculously appeared to believers many times over the centuries. The Eastern and Oriental Orthodox, Catholic, Anglican, and Lutheran churches believe that Mary, as mother of Jesus, is the Mother of God. There is significant diversity in the Marian beliefs and devotional practices of major Christian traditions. The Catholic Church holds distinctive Marian dogmas, namely her status as the Mother of God, her Immaculate Conception, her perpetual virginity, and her Assumption into heaven. Many Protestants minimize Mary's role within Christianity, basing their argument on the relative brevity of biblical references. Mary also has a revered position in Islam, where one of the longer chapters of the Quran is devoted to her. Her feast day is on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August.

Source: wikipedia.org





An ice-creamy event was held on  
Sunday July 16 to offer  
**CONGRATULATIONS**  
to Ascension's

## 2023 GRADUATES:

Connor Hughes - Sto-Rox High School  
Emily Lescallette - Moon Area High School  
Raleigh Rickerd - Moon Area High School  
Luciana Thompson - Moon Area High School

Kelly Bryan - Heritage Valley Kennedy School of Nursing  
Emily Reckner - PTC School of Healthcare - Surgical Technology  
Nathan Reckner - MBA, Robert Morris University

## Ice Cream Social



Photos by Sharon Giza





# LESSER FESTIVALS & commemorations

**August 8 - Dominic, d. 1221** *founder of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans)*

Dominic was a Spanish priest who saw the wealth of the clergy as a stumbling block for the church, so he formed a movement, the Order of Preachers (commonly called Dominicans) devoted to itinerant preaching and living in poverty.

**August 10 - Lawrence, d.258** *deacon, martyr*

As one of the seven deacons of the church at Rome, Lawrence was responsible for the church's financial matters and for the care of the poor. Asked by the emperor to gather the church's treasure, he presented a collection of orphans, lepers, and the like. The enraged emperor Valerian had him put to death.

**August 11 - Clare of Assisi d. 1253** *Abbess of San Damiano*

At age eighteen, Clare of Assisi heard Francis preach a sermon in a church in town. From that time, she determined to follow in his example of Christian living. With Francis's help (and against the wishes of her father) she and a growing number of companions established a women's Franciscan community, called the Order of Poor Ladies, or Poor Clares. She became a confidante and advisor to Francis, and in standing up against the wishes of popes for the sake of maintaining complete poverty, she helped inspire other women to pursue spiritual goals.

**August 13 - Florence Nightingale d. 1910; Clara Maass d. 1901** *renewers of the church*

**Nightingale** was born in England, and horrified her wealthy family by deciding to become a nurse. Trained at Kaiserswerth, Germany, with a Lutheran order of deaconesses, she led a group of nurses in ministering in the midst of the Crimean War, and worked for hospital reform. **Maass**, a native of New Jersey, also was a war nurse, and volunteered as a subject for research on yellow fever. She died of the disease.

**August 14 - Maximilian Kolbe, d. 1941; Kaj Munk, d. 1944;** *martyrs*

**Kolbe** was a Franciscan priest, born Raymond Kolbe. After spending some time working in Asia, he returned in 1936 to his native Poland, where he supervised a friary that came to house thousands of Polish war refugees, mostly Jews. The Nazis were watching, however, and he was arrested. Confined in Auschwitz, Kolbe gave generously of his meager resources and finally volunteered to be starved to death in place of another man who was a husband and father. After two weeks, he was executed by a lethal injection.

**Munk**, a Danish Lutheran pastor and playwright, was an outspoken critic of the Nazis, who occupied Denmark during the Second World War. His plays frequently highlighted the eventual victory of the Christian faith despite the church's weak and ineffective witness. The Nazis feared Munk because his sermons and articles helped to strengthen the Danish resistance movement. He was executed by the Gestapo on January 5, 1944.

**August 15 - Mary, Mother of Our Lord**

The church (including Martin Luther) honors Mary with the Greek title *Theotokos*, meaning God-bearer. Origen first used this title in the early church, and the councils of Ephesus and Chalcedon upheld it. Luther upheld this same title in his writings. The honor paid to Mary as *Theotokos* and mother of our Lord goes back to biblical times, when Mary herself sang, "from now on all generations will call me blessed" (Luke 1:48). Mary's life revealed the presence of God incarnate, and it revealed God's presence among the humble and poor. Mary's song, the Magnificat, speaks of reversals in the reign of God: the mighty are cast down, the lowly are lifted up, the hungry are fed, and the rich are sent away empty-handed.

**August 20 - Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, d. 1153**

A Cistercian monk, Bernard was a man of great spirituality who wrote mystical works and criticized those whom he thought took an overly intellectual approach to the faith. He became an abbot, and wrote several hymns that are still beloved today.

**August 24 - Bartholomew** *Apostle*

Mentioned as one of Jesus' disciples in Matthew, Mark, and Luke, Bartholomew's name is replaced in John's gospel by Nathanael, leading many to believe that the two are different names for the same person. Little is known about his work, though some traditions place him later in India or Armenia.

**August 28 - Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, d. 430**

Augustine was one of the greatest theologians of the Western church. Born in North Africa, he was a philosophy student in Carthage, where he later became a teacher of rhetoric. Much of his young life was a debauched one. As an adult he came under the influence of Ambrose, the bishop of Milan, and through him came to see Christianity as a religion appropriate for a philosopher. Augustine was baptized by Ambrose at the Easter Vigil in 387. He was ordained four years later and made bishop of Hippo in 396. Augustine was a defender of the Christian faith and argued, against the Donatists, that the holiness of the church did not depend on the holiness of its members, particularly the clergy, but that holiness comes from Christ, the head of the church. Augustine's autobiography, *Confessions*, tells of his slow movement toward faith and includes the line "Late have I loved thee."

**August 28 - Moses the Black d.ca. 400** *monk, martyr*

Converted from life as a thief and a robber to Christianity, Moses was an Ethiopian who became a desert monk at Skete. The change in his heart and life had a profound impact on his native country. He was murdered when Berber bandits attacked his monastery.



*To be Christ's Disciples,  
nurture our faith, serve God,  
welcome our neighbors,  
and joyfully share in His love.*

**Contact Us**  
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Visit us on the web at  
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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

